



Louisiana Public Service Commission

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Chairman 2013

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December 6, 2013

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Federal Communications Commission  
Tom Wheeler- Chairman  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Ex Parte Presentation Re: WT Docket No. 12-1269 -- Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings**

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As a state utility commissioner, it is my duty to protect consumers from unreasonably high rates and poor service when purchasing telecommunications services, which are preferably accomplished by promoting robust competition between a variety of wireless and wireline competitors. I write today on behalf of Louisiana consumers of telecommunications services, and I support a rulemaking in this matter that keeps their best interests in mind as the spectrum auction rules are developed.

Although the wireless industry currently appears to be economically healthy, highly competitive and innovative and efficient in its use of limited resources,<sup>1</sup> I am concerned that without reasonable auction controls designed to prevent spectrum aggregation and promote competition, particularly in the low-frequency spectrum that is now at issue, Louisiana consumers ultimately may see a duopoly of national wireless providers.

I understand that the low-frequency spectrum auction now at issue is at a critical juncture in the wireless industry. As it stands now, the two largest providers together control 78% of the low-frequency spectrum currently available. The other carriers have virtually none. This fact alone demonstrates an extraordinarily high degree of spectrum aggregation and the FCC should take steps in the upcoming auction to limit further aggregation.

Low-frequency spectrum is especially important for wireless access in rural areas. I believe that adoption of auction rules that would ensure smaller carriers better access to low-band spectrum

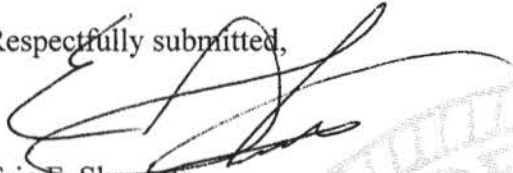
<sup>1</sup> See generally, *Ex Parte* Submission of the United States Department of Justice Before the Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 12-269, pp. 7-8, April 11, 2013.

would encourage them to build out infrastructure in additional rural markets, which will increase competitive wireless choices in those markets.

Mindful of Congress' direction that the Commission develop rules to promote competition, ensure that new and innovative technologies are readily accessible to consumers and avoiding excessive concentration, I join USDOJ in strongly encouraging rules that prevent excessive concentration of spectrum ownership, thereby keeping the long-term interests of America's wireless consumers firmly in mind.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric F. Skrimetta



*Eric Skrimetta*  
*Commissioner*